

Message Text

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SUBJ: FRG/GOE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

1. EGYPTIAN NEWS MEDIA HAS GIVEN RELATIVELY HEAVY COVERAGE TO VISIT FRG MINISTER SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND EDUCATION DR. VULKER HAUF, WHO ATTENDED MAY 16 OPENING OF EGYPT'S FIRST SOLAR POWER STATION. STATION, WHICH REPORTEDLY HAS A 20,000 KILOWATT HOUR OUTPUT, WAS CONSTRUCTED UNDER 1977 GOE/FRG PROTOCOL FOR ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION. STATION IS EXPECTED TO PRODUCE POWER FOR IRRIGATION PUMPS TO BE USED IN RECLAMATION OF 500 ACRES IN THE NEW LLEY. TOTAL RECLAMATION COSTS IN AREA WILL AMOUNT TO LE 2 MILLION (APPROX \$2.8 MILLION AT PARALLEL RATE), HALF OF WHICH WILL REPORTEDLY BE BORNE BY FRG.

2. HAUF'S VISIT WAS CLIMAXED BY MAY 18 INITIALING OF 1978 GOE/FRG SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO PRESS, FRG WILL SEND FOUR TEAMS OF EXPERTS TO EGYPT OVER NEXT FEW MONTHS. FIRST TEAM WILL DISCUSS FRG "GIFT" OF 10 SOLAR ELECTRIC POWER STATIONS TO EGYPT. SECOND TEAM WILL ESTABLISH URANIUM EXPLORATION PROGRAM

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DRAWING HEAVILY ON FRG EXPERTISE, WHILE THIRD WILL SET UP AN ATOMIC EXPERT EXCHANGE PROGRAM AND HELP DEVELOP ATOMIC RESEARCH LABORATORIES. (MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY OFFICIAL TOLD VISITING WESTINGHOUSE VP DELZIO MAY 17 THAT FRG WILL SUPPLY GOE WITH NEW ZERO MEGAWATT RESEARCH REACTOR--SEE SEPTEL.) THE FOURTH TEAM OF EXPERTS WILL REPORTEDLY HELP MODERNIZE EGYPT'S WATER

AND IRRIGATION SYSTEMS.

3. COMMENT: FRG EMBOFF (CONTACTED PRIOR TO INITIALLING OF 1978 AGREEMENT) TELLS US THAT CONSTRUCTION OF SMALL SOLAR POWER STATION IN EGYPT IS PART OF ONGOING WEST GERMAN SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR RESEARCH INTO SOURCES OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY AND IS SEPARATE FROM THEIR AID PROGRAM. EGYPT WAS CHOSEN AS SITE FOR EXPERIMENTAL PLANT BECAUSE OF ITS YEAR-ROUND ABUNDANCE OF SUNSHINE. FUNDS FOR RECLAMATION OF NEW VALLEY LANDS, HOWEVER, WILL COME OUT OF FRG FOREIGN AID TO GOE. PRESS REPORTS OF 1978 AGREEMENT, IF ACCURATE, WOULD APPEAR TO INDICATE SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF GOE/FRG TECHNICAL COOPERATION, ESPECIALLY IN FIELD OF URANIUM EXPLORATION AND NUCLEAR COOPERATION. PRESS PRONE TO EXAGGERATION, HOWEVER, AND IT LIKELY THAT PROJECTS STILL VERY MUCH IN DISCUSSION PHASE.

MATTHEWS

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